Fifth Annual Meeting of the National Rice Bio-Technology Network

1578. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fifth annual meeting of the National rice bio-technology network was organised in New Delhi in November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether world's top agricultural scientists have been entrusted with the work of reviewing the progress of rice research and suggest ways to improve India's ambitious hybrid rice development programmes; and

(d) if so, the names of such scientists, country-wise with terms and conditions and time fixed for submission of their observations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The fifth annual meeting of the National Rice Biotechnology Network was held on 13-16 November, 1996 at New Delhi.

(b) The National Rice Biotechnology Network was started in 1989 at the Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad. The collaborating institutions include ICAR Institutes; State Agricultural Universities; CSIR institutions; traditional universities and private sector institutions. The network collaborators meet annually to review the progress of work, exchange ideas, share expertise and facilities through developing collaborative programmes on rice biotechnology.

In the fifth annual meeting, about 200 participants took part which were represented by all the networking centres; specialists in the field of molecular biology from USA, UK, Japan and Philippines; representatives of funding agencies and invitees from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Malawi. Many of the foreign participants were observers and were invitee to the 2nd International Crop Science Congress.

(c) Yes, Sir. The mid-term evaluation of the hybrid rice project has been conducted by a High Level Committee.

(d) The Committee consisted of Dr. James Mc Williams of UNDP, Dr. Hiroshi Ikehashi of FAO and Dr. S.K. Sinha of ICAR.

The Committee has already submitted its recommendations. The Committee has appreciated the remarkable progress made by the project in a very short time and recommended that this project may be used as a model for similar activities in other south East Asian countries.

Subsequently, Dr. S.S. Virmani of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines has also reviewed the programme in October, 1996. He has appreciated the progress made by the project and has made some suggestions for further improvement of the hybrid rice programme in India.

Training of Women in Agriculture

1579. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some European countries are funding projects for training of women in agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of women covered under the project so far in the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the role being played by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Govemment of Denmark and Govemment of Netherlands are funding projects for Training of Women in Agriculture in 4 and 2 States respectively.

(b) The details of all these projects are given in the Statement-I *(See* below).

(c) Total number of women covered under each projects is given in Statement-Il *(See* below). There is no project presently being implemented in Maharashtra with the assistance from any European Country.

(d) Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govemment of India is the Nodal Agency responsible for implementation of all these projects.

Statement-I

Details of the Project on Training of Women in Agriculture

Name of the project	State	Donar Agency	Duration	Project Cost	Districts Covered	Total Farm Women Trained.
1. Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture						
(Tanwa)-- Tamil Nadu.	Tamil Nadu	Denmark	Ph-I 1.7.86 to 30.6.93	Rs. 4,13 crores	1. Chingleput 2. South Arcot 3. Thanjavur 4. Pudukottai 5. Ramned 6. Tirunelveli	15.862
			Phase-ll 1.10.93 to 30.9.2000	Rs. 28.73 crores	All the districts of the state except Madras	31244
2. Women and Youth Extension Training Project						
(WYTEP)- Karnataka	Karnataka	Denmark	Ph.-I 24.9.82 to 30.6.89	Rs. 4.71 crores	1. Bangalore 2. Belgaum 3. Bijapur 4. Chitradurga 5. Dharwad 6. Kodagu 7. Mandya 8. Raichur 9. Shimoga 10. Tumkur 11. Uttara Kanneda	29022
			Ph.-II 1.7.89 to 30.6.97	Rs. 12.54 crores	All the districts of the state except Bidar	38750
3. Training and Extension of Women in Agriculture						
(TEWA), Orissa.	Orissa	Denkark	Ph.-I 2.12.87 to 30.6.93	Rs. 3.22	Bolangir Ganjam Puri Dhenkanel	50,000
			Ph.-II 1.7.95 to 2000	Rs. 11.346 crores	Keonjhar Sundergarh Koraput Sambalpur	
4. Madhya Pradesh Women in Agriculture						
(MAPWA), Madhya Pradesh	M.P.	Denmark	1.12.93 to 30.11.98	Rs. 6.24	Raisen Narsimhapur Chindwara Jabalpur Mandla Bilaspur Shadol Rewa	400

Name of the project	State	Donar Agency	Duration	Project Cost	Districts Covered	Total Farm Women Trained.
5. Training of Farm Women in Agriculture						
(TWA), Gujarat	Gujarat	Netherlands	30.5.89 to 30.6.97	Rs. 5.73 crores	Bhavnagar Dahod Vyara Deesa Junagarh Kutch	16984
6. Andhra Pradesh Women in Agriculture						
(ANTWA), Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	Netherlands	24.8.93 to 23.8.98	Rs. 5.90 crores	Rangareddy Kamool Parkasam Visakhapatnam Anantpur Nalgonda	6767

Statement-Il

Farm Women Trained under various projects with European Assistance

A.	DENMARK ASSISTED PROJECTS	Total Number of Farm Women Trained	
1.	Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture (TANWA)	Phase-I	15862
		Phase-ll	31244
2.	Women and Youth Extension Training Project (WYTEP)	Phase-I	29022
		Phase-ll	38750
3.	Training and Extension for Women in Agriculture (TEWA)		50,000
4.	Madhya Pradesh Women in Agriculture (MAPWA)		4000
B.	NETHERLANDS ASSISTED PROJECTS		
1.	Training of Farm Women in Agriculture (TWA), Gujarat		16984
2.	Andhra Pradesh Women in Agriculture (ANTWA)	–	6767
	TOTAL TRAINED		1,89,029

Absorbtion of retrenched Loco Shed Workers

1580. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have received a list of retrenched workers from various Loco sheds in Railways for their abserbtion in alternative jobs;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to absorbe such workers; and

(c) the number of such retrenched workers of various Loco sheds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Some representations have been received for absorbtion of coal/ash handling labour engaged in the past by private contractors in loco sheds.

(b) Petitions filed by the workers concerned are pending in the Supreme Court. Steps would be taken in accordance with the court's orders.

(c) the precise number of such workers is not available.